

Community Area #70

Ashburn

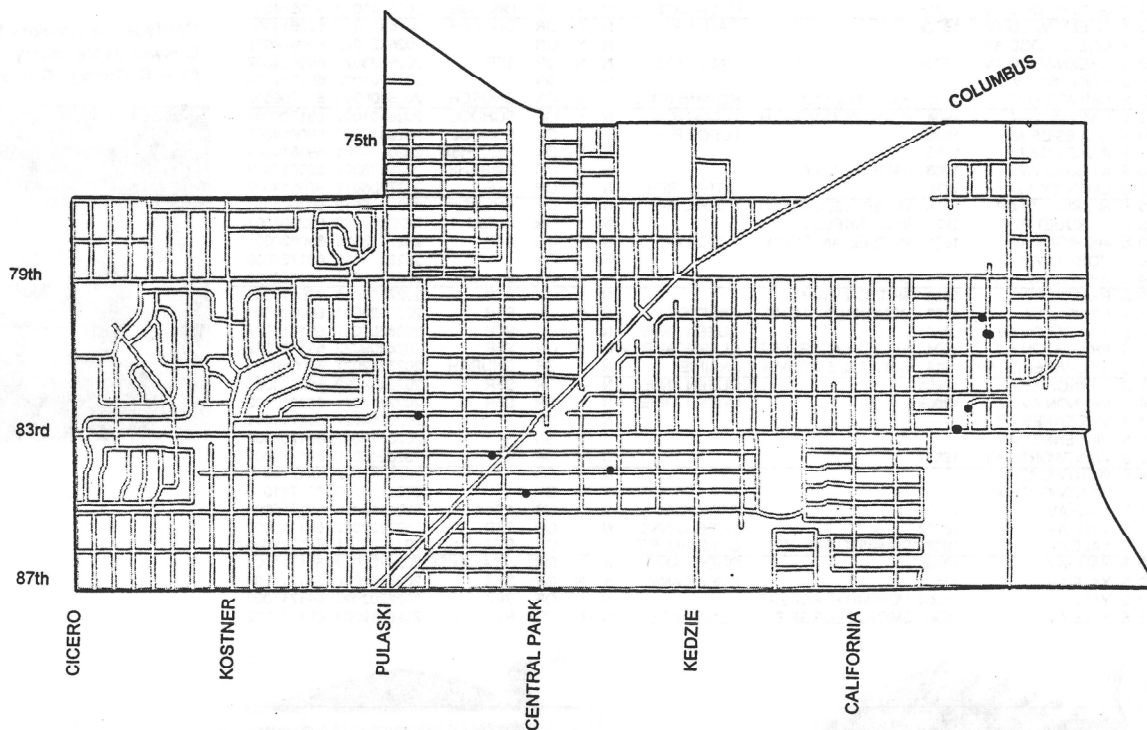
Population: 37,092

Number of Structures: 12,337

Avg. Date of Construction: 1956

Significant Structures: 10

Source: 1990 Census, Harris File, CHRS



Community Area #70

Ashburn

Ashburn is a residential community of modest brick houses, most of which were built in the decades following World War II. Although it became part of the Town of Lake in 1865, and was therefore annexed to Chicago in 1889, the area experienced only small, isolated spurts of development until the 1940s.

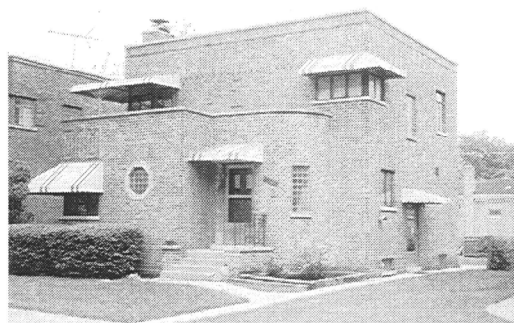
The land that became Ashburn supported farming until late in the nineteenth century. The area was annexed by Chicago in 1889 as part of the larger annexation of the Town of Lake, although the earliest subdivision, Clarkdale, was not created until 1893. Located between 79th, 85th, Crawford (now Pulaski), and Central Park, Clarkdale boasted fewer than 50 houses by the turn of the century. A frame cottage at 3412 West 84th St. remains from this settlement.

Two railroad lines ran through the area: the Wabash, now the Norfolk and Southern, and the Grand Trunk Western. The Wabash tracks ran parallel to Columbus Avenue in a diagonal line from northeast to southwest through the area. The Grand Trunk Western tracks run north-south between Kedzie and Pulaski. In 1908, the area's name was changed to Ashburn because there was a larger town named Clarkdale elsewhere on the Wabash line. The Loop was miles away and there was no significant industry. Special assessments for needed public improvements, city codes mandating that construction be of brick, and antiquated deed restrictions all acted as brakes on development.



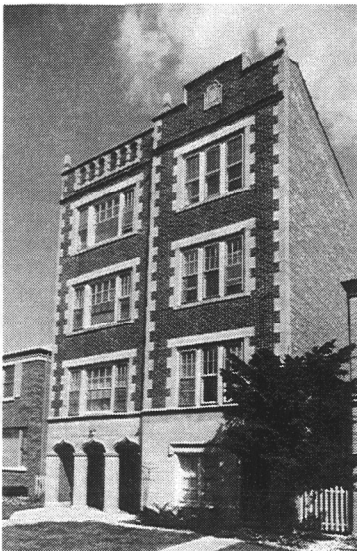
3412 W. 84th St.

2520 W. 83rd St.





8046 S. Artesian Av.



8049 S. Artesian Av.

Despite these problems, Ashburn's remote location and abundance of open land did attract, for a decade, one group of people--aviation enthusiasts. In 1916, Chicago's Aero Club, one of the first in the country, established Ashburn Field on 640 acres at 83rd St. and Cicero Avenue. That winter, the Army Signal Corps used it for a few months as the base for a pilot training school, with only tents to shelter people and planes, until the unit decamped to the warmer climate of Memphis. Grant Park was the Chicago area's only other important civilian airfield. Ashburn Field served entrepreneurs building airplanes, students of an aviation school established in 1920, and a growing number of amateur and professional pilots. Its importance, however, was eclipsed by the opening of Municipal (now Midway) Airport in 1926. The last parcel of Ashburn Field's acreage was sold in the 1950s.

By 1940, the community area's population was still only about 700. However, the area's large amount of vacant land finally began to attract developers after World War II, when nearby industrial growth created a need for housing. The population exploded, increasing ten-fold by 1950, quintupling to 35,000 by 1960, and peaking around 47,000 in 1970. Unfortunately, little remains from the pre-war period, and the community continues to be heavily residential with a smattering of industrial development.

The focus of the Chicago Historic Resources Survey was on buildings erected prior to 1940. Buildings and developments erected after that date generally are not included in the inventory.

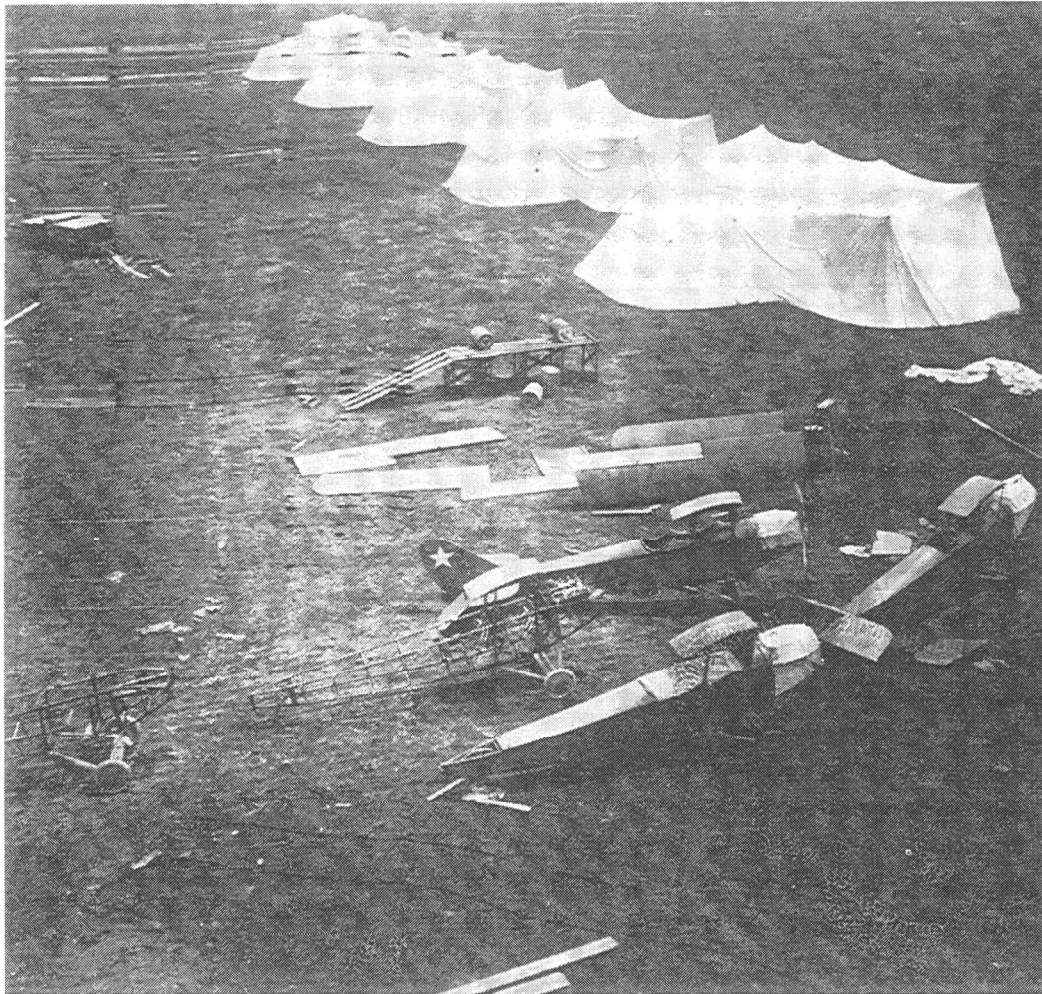


2447 W. 80th St.

Community Area #70

Ashburn

Address	Date	Architect	Building Style	Survey		Building Code Type	PIN	Form #
				LM	IS			
2447 W 80 ST	1928	MAJOR, R.E., & CO.	TUDOR REV	N	Y	OR MFR	1936214001	701813001
3907 W 82 PL	1880s		QUEEN ANNE	N	N	OR SFR	1935125020	701816001
3721 W 83 PL	1890s			N	N	OR SFR	1935307016	701807001
2520 W 83 ST	1939	CARLSON, ELMER C	ART DECO	N	Y	OR SFR	1936229036	701813005
2524 W 83 ST	1939	CARLSON, ELMER C	ART DECO	N	Y	OR SFR	1936229035	701813006
3647 W 84 PL	1870s			N	N	OR 2-3 FLAT	1935314071	701807002
3412 W 84 ST	1900s			N	N	OR SFR	1935405042	701806001
8046 S ARTESIAN AV	1926	ALEXANDER & BRAN		N	N	OR 2-3 FLAT	1936214035	701813002
8049 S ARTESIAN AV	1926	ALEXANDER & BRAN		N	N	OR 2-3 FLAT	1936215016	701813003
8208 S CAMPBELL AV	1880s			N	N	OR SFR	1936229061	701813004



Photograph of Ashburn Field, 1916
83rd St. and Cicero Av.